Bryan D. O'Connor

Bryan O'Connor is the Chief, Safety and Mission Assurance, Office of Safety and Mission Assurance, at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Headquarters in Washington, DC. He has functional responsibility for safety, reliability, maintainability, and quality assurance for all NASA programs and institutions.

Mr. O'Connor began his career in the United States Marine Corps where he flew as an attack pilot and test pilot in a number of different aircraft. He was selected for the NASA astronaut program in 1980 and served in several positions supporting the first test flights of the Space Shuttle. With more than 20 years of experience with NASA, Mr. O'Connor has guided some of the Agency's most important efforts, including the Space Shuttle's return to flight after the Challenge disaster, the redesign of the Space Station Freedom to the International Space Station, and the Space Shuttle program partnership with Russia on the Shuttle-Mir program.

Mr. O'Connor holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from the United States Naval Academy and a master's degree in aeronautical systems from the University of West Florida. He has flown more than 5,000 hours in over 40 types of aircraft, and he has almost 400 hours in space on two Space Shuttle flights (pilot on STS-61B and commander for STS-40).